

REMARKS:

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed March 10, 2003. Claims 1-24 were outstanding in the Office Action. Claims 9, 12-16 and 22-24 were objected to by the Examiner as including informal language. Claims 6, 9, 12, 15, 16 and 23 were rejected in view of the prior art. Claims 1-24 were subjected to a Restriction requirement under 35 USC 121 in a letter mailed October 29, 2002. Claims 6-9, 12-16 and 22-24, drawn to the cutter tool assembly, were elected by the applicant in a letter dated March 10, 2003. Claims 1-5 and 17-21 were withdrawn with traverse. Claims 6, 9, 12, 15, 16 and 23 were rejected in view of the prior art. Claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 were indicated as including allowable subject matter but objected to as depending on rejected independent claims. Claims 22 and 24 were indicated as reciting allowable subject matter, but objected to because they included language informalities. The applicant wishes to extend thanks to the Examiner for her indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified application be reconsidered in view of the above amendments and remarks, which follow, and that each of the presently pending claims be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

By this amendment, claims 1-5 and 17-21, drawn to the non-elected invention, have now been cancelled. Claim 7 has been cancelled and Claim 6 has been amended to include all the limitations of dependent claim 7. Claim 8 accordingly has been amended to depend on claim 6. Claims 22 and 24 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections.

Claims 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Montgomery '943. Claim 9 has been amended to overcome the outstanding rejection. In paragraph 13 of the Office Action mailed March 10, 2003, the Examiner declares that Montgomery '943 meets the limitations of the symmetric top surfaces oriented at "about" 15 degrees. By this amendment and for the purposes of expediting prosecution, the Applicant has amended claim 9 to recite that the angle of orientation is at least 15 degrees. It is respectfully submitted that this angle of orientation is not explicitly disclosed or suggested by the Montgomery '943 patent. The Montgomery '943 patent discloses a preference of the angle of the top surface of the support block to be 10 degrees. In column 3, lines 8-15, and column 4, lines 35-39, of Montgomery '943, the preferential angle of orientation of the top

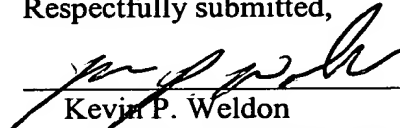
surface of the support block is explicitly disclosed as being 10 degrees. The Montgomery '943 reference does not suggest or teach an angle of at least 15 degrees. It would have been nonobvious to modify the support block to have a top surface angle of 15 degrees in view of Montgomery '943.

Claims 15, 16 and 23 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 SUC 102(b) as being anticipated by Salani (US 4,621,871, US 5,125,720). Claims 15, 16 and 23 have been cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and comments, it is believed that claims are patentable over the art of record. Thus, applicant respectfully request a Notice of Allowance indicating claims 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 22 and 24 as being allowable. If for any reason the Examiner does not believe that the application is in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicant with any comments or questions (724-539-3848) in order to expedite prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, and fees for extension of time of three months, in connection with this submission to Kennametal Inc. corporate Deposit Account No. 11-0508.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin P. Weldon
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 47,307
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Kennametal Inc.
P. O. Box 231
Latrobe, PA 15650
(724) 539-5485 Phone
(724) 539-5903 Fax